

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05

SCCT-01 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 078983

R 061650Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5155

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: POST COUP TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

1. IN THE 12 DAYS FOLLOWING THE MARCH 24 COUP THERE HAS BEEN A RECRUDESCENCE OF RIGHT-WING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, MOST OF WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN A STYLE REMINISCENT OF THE TRIPLE A. OF THE APPROXIMATELY 25 VICTIMS OF TERRORISM SINCE THE COUP, OVER 20 HAVE BEEN LEFTISTS APPARENTLY KILLED BY RIGHT-WING VIGILANTES.

2. ONE OF THE HOPES OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ARGENTINE PEOPLE WAS THAT THE COUP WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY SEVERE MEASURES AGAINST LEFTIST TERRORISM AND WOULD PUT AN END TO RIGHT-WING QUASI-OFFICIAL VIOLENCE AS WELL. AT THIS POINT, EMBASSY CONTACTS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO OPPOSED COUP, HAVE NOT CONCLUDED THAT LATEST RIGHT-WING STYLE VIOLENCE IS GOVERNMENT SPONSORED. INDEED SOME HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT LATEST RIGHT-WING ACTS ARE THE END OF AN ERA AND NOT THE CONTINUANCE OF OFFICIALLY CONDONED VIOLENCE ALBEIT UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT. VANOLI OF UCR TOLD EMBOFFS APRIL 5 THAT BALBIN HAD TALKED TO PRESIDENT VIDELA ABOUT SITUATION. LATTER WAS FURIOUS OVER KILLINGS AND ASSURED BALBIN THEY WERE IN NO WAY AUTHORIZED OR CONDONED BY HIS GOVERNMENT. VANOLI SAID BALBIN BELIEVED VIDELA. IT SEEMED TO THEM THAT MURDERS WERE LIKELY PERPETRATED BY OFF-  
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DUTY POLICEMEN ACTING ON THEIR OWN TO AVENGE BROTHER

OFFICERS GUNNED DOWN BY LEFT. (SINCE MAR 24 THERE HAVE BEEN 11 ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE POLICE OFFICERS, 4 OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.)

3. TEST FOR THESE SOURCES' CONVICTIONS AS WELL AS THOSE OF MOST OTHER ARGENTINES WILL COME IN NEXT FEW DAYS AS MILITARY "COUNCILS OF WAR" SPECIFICALLY EMPOWERED TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM BEGIN TO FUNCTION.

4. COMMENT: LATEST ACTS HAVE SENT A COLLECTIVE SHIVER THROUGH POPULATION WHICH HAD HOPED COUP WOULD BRING SOME MEASURE OF TRANQUILITY FROM VIOLENCE FROM BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT. AT PRESENT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CHARGES THAT RIGHT-WING STYLE VIOLENCE IS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. HOWEVER, IF ACTS CONTINUE WITHOUT EITHER AN EFFECTIVE CRACKDOWN AGAINST THEM OR STRONG STATEMENTS OF CONDEMNATION FROM AUTHORITIES, NEW GOVERNMENT'S REPUTATION FOR MODERATION AND LAWFUL BEHAVIOR COULD BE SEVERELY TARNISHED.  
HILL

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